

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-07 STRE-00 /032 W

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P R 280959Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8083

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF STR DENT FOR MTN DISCUSSIONS

REF: STATE 185876

1. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE TO TRY TO PROMOTE
A MEETING WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES AS A GROUP TO DISCUSS MTN
ISSUES WITH DENT DURING HIS VISIT TO KEY COUNTRIES.

2. OUR REASONING IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) IT HAS BEEN OUR ASSUMPTION THAT USG APPROACH TO
LDC'S IN MTN CONTEXT WAS TO NEGOTIATE WITH EACH AS AN
INDIVIDUAL ENTITY AND TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE TO AVOID DEALING WITH
BLOCS. WHILE WE MUST EXPECT LDC'S TO ADOPT COMMON STANDS,
IT SEEMS TO US THAT WE TEND TO RIGIDIFY AND LEGITIMIZE
BLOC BARGAINING TO THE EXTENT WE ENCOURAGE MEETINGS SUCH AS
THAT PROPOSED BETWEEN ASEAN REPRESENTATIVES AND SENIOR
USG NEGOTIATING OFFICIALS.

(B) DEGREE OF COOPERATION AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES
MAY APPEAR DIFFERENT DEPENDING UPON PERSPECTIVE. AS
VIEWED FROM MANILA, ASEAN COORDINATION ON MTN APPEARS
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LESS CLOSE THAN SUGGESTED BY REFTEL OR SINGAPORE 3536.

IN ANY EVENT, WE QUESTION WHETHER IT IS IN U.S. INTER-
EST TO ENCOURAGE EVEN CLOSER COORDINATION, WHICH
WOULD SURELY BE THE CASE SHOULD WE ATTEMPT INITIATE
JOINT MEETING WITH DENT.

(C) WE HAVE NEVER BELIEVED WE HAD MUCH TO
GAIN FROM TAKING INITIATIVE IN PRESSING ASEAN TO MEET
WITH U.S. TO CONSULT ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. IN FIRST
PLACE IT RISKED EMBARRASSING ASEAN BY SUGGESTING U.S.
EMBRACE, AND IN SECOND WE HAVE FELT INITIATIVE SHOULD
COME FROM ASEAN IF IT WERE TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND AVOID
EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS. OPINIONS AS TO UTILITY OF
SUCH A MEETING MAY DIFFER (STATE 049508), I NOTE THAT
SECOND MEETING WITH EEC HAS NEVER GOTTEN

OFF THE GROUND (MANILA 2308). HOWEVER, IF WE ARE NOW
TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING JOINT ECONOMIC CON-
SULTATIONS WITH ASEAN WE WOULD PREFER TO START OFF
ON RANGE OF SUBJECTS THAT SUGGESTS COOPERATION RATHER
THAN ON SINGLE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE SUCH AS MTN WHICH MIGHT RISK
SOURING ATMOSPHER FOR FUTURE. SULLIVAN

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